Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part V

[F5F17-F] Correspondence, General (1927-1928)

Family Records Series -- Edison Family Papers -- Mina Edison Papers

Title
[F5F17-F] Correspondence, General (1927-1928)

Description
The four selected documents in this folder cover the period January-July 1927. Included is a telegram by Charles Edison, sent to his mother while he was visiting his ailing sister-in-law, Marion Edison Oeser, in Norwalk, Connecticut. The other three letters relate to improvements and insurance at Glenmont, the Edison home in Llewellyn Park, New Jersey.

URL

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Identifier

F5F17-F

Type

Family Records

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Family Records Series -- Edison Family Papers -- Mina Edison Papers

Alternative Title

Correspondence -- General (1927-1928)

Has Version

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[F5F17AA], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Neill (William) and Sons Inc, January 15th, 1927

Title
[F5F17AA], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Neill (William) and Sons Inc, January 15th, 1927

Author
Miller, John Vincent

Recipient
Neill (William) and Sons Inc

Mentioned

- Glenmont
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1927-01-15

Type
Letter

Subject

- Property
- Contracts and other legal concerns

Folder ID
F5F17-F

Microfilm ID
285:920

Document ID
F5F17AA

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Timestamp
15 January 1927

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January 15, 1927.

William Neill & Sons, Inc.,
47 Orange Road,
Montclair, N. J.

RE: Pond at Mrs. Edison's Residence,
Your letter of January 13th.

Mr. Neill:

We regret very much the dispute that has arisen in connection with the lily and skating pond of Mrs. Edison.

Early in the fall we had this matter up with Mr. Pentecost. He later informed us that he had taken the matter up with you and explained Mrs. Edison's position in the matter and gave us to understand that you were willing to drop your idea of claiming any further payment on account of this work.

Mrs. Edison does not feel that she is obligated to pay any more on account of your bills as she and the rest of the family thoroughly believe that the pond is not at all satisfactory or fills the terms of the contract with you.

In the contract which was made up by Mr. Pentecost, as engineer, and signed by you and Mrs. Edison:-

Item "D" calls for "Careful testing of bottom and if soft and yielding said material to be removed and refilled with gravel or other hard material." We do not believe sufficient care was exercised in making these tests, nor that the proper excavation and refilling was done.

Item "E" - "When bottom of pond has been thus prepared a six inch layer of clean clay s all be applied thereon and thoroughly puddled until water tight." We believe that the principal trouble arises out of the use of so-called clay from the field at Mrs. Edison's residence. This was not "clean" clay as same contained considerable stone and also sand.

"The contractor agrees to do all of the above work to the satisfaction of the Landscape Architects, Pentecost & Martin, Inc. - xxxx"

Mr. Pentecost has told us that he is not satisfied with the results; that the work was not done in accordance with the contract; and that he has not approved and does not propose to approve the payment of the balance, now in question.

How during the summer of 1926, the writer had several talks with you by 'phone and direct and explained the situation, and that Mrs. Edison was absolutely dissatisfied with the pond. Finally, in a conference with you in your office in Montclair, you stated that you were willing and anxious to call the job "quits." It was accordingly understood that the entire matter was closed, both by you and Mrs. Edison. You further stated that you had lost money on the job and further effort on your part would mean just so much more loss and you were ready to consider the matter closedand "quits."

I informed Mrs. Edison of this understanding with you, namely, that you would not go to any further expense to redeem the pond and the job was ended, and considered "quits," by which Mrs. Edison and myself both understood you were glad to be freed from any further work and the account closed and you would write off your loss.

We certainly trust you understand Mrs. Edison's position and that the pond has never held water and is absolutely unsatisfactory - and you will consider the matter closed.

With the kindest personal regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J. V. Miller.

Ediphoned-C

[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

W E Paper
3 Chm.
Mr. F.M.
Miller

William Mill & Sons, Inc —
47 Orange Road
Montclair, N.J.

Mr. Mill

Re/ Pond at Mrs. Edison's Residence
Your letter of Jan. 12th.

We regret very much ~~that there is a misunderstanding apparently has arisen on the payment of your account~~ the dispute that has arisen in connection with the filling and skating pond of Mrs. Edison — ~~We appreciate the effort you made to render this pond satisfactory and regret that the final result was so poor.~~ —

Early in the Fall we ~~talked~~ had this matter up with Mr. Pentecost in regard to the matter of payment of the balance of your account and later, he informed us that he had taken the matter up with you & explained Mrs. Edison's position in the matter and gave us to understand that you were willing to drop your idea of collecting the balance — claiming any further payment on account of this work does not feel that she is obligated

Mrs. Edison is very strongly opposed to paying any more on account of your bills, as she and the rest of the family thoroughly

[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

believe that the pond is not at all satisfactory or fills the terms of the contract with you. -

~~Our position is as follows~~

In the Contract which was made up by Mr. Penticost as Engineer & signed by you & Mrs. Edisaw :-

Item "D" Calls for "careful testing of bottom & if soft and yielding said material to be removed & refilled with gravel or other hard material."

We do not believe sufficient care was exercised in making these tests, nor that the proper excavation & refilling was done -

Item "E" "When bottom of pond has been thus prepared a six inch layer of clean clay shall be applied thereon & thoroughly puddled until water tight."

We believe that the principle trouble arises out of the use of so called clay from the field at Mrs. Edisaw residence. This was not "clean" ~~clay~~ clay as same contained considerable stone and also ~~gravel~~ sand. - Had not pure clay been used as specified and actually puddled as directed by Mr. Penticost the success of the pond would have been

[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

~~accrued~~. Mr. Pentecost has stated several times that ponds constructed in the manner ~~by~~ which water & have proven satisfactory —

"The contractor agrees to do all of the above work to the satisfaction of the Landscape Architects, Pentecost & Martin, Inc. — ~~x x x x~~ "

Mr. Pentecost has told us that he is not satisfied with the results; that the work was not done ~~according to his instructions~~ in accordance with the Contract; and that he has not approved and does not propose to approve the payment of the balance, now in question —

Furthermore you are well aware of the long delay in the construction of the pond at the outlet and the non completion of same before winter set in in 1925. Due to this fact and that the bottom was by no means water tight and the sides not completed, the pond was absolutely useless. —

Then in the spring there was still further & extensive delay in getting a real good grade of clay, with which you attempted to redeem the pond & make it tight —

The new lining of the ground under the original so called clay, was made and so numerous holes developed where the clay & bottom allowing the water to leak away & making the pond not only useless for retaining water but an unsightly spot on Mrs. Edison's estate. ~~of~~ 1926

Now during the summer, the writer had several talks with your Mr. Pheons and discussed and explained the situation and that Mr. Edison was absolutely dissatisfied with the pond — Finally at in a conference held you in your office in Montclair you stated that you were willing

[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

and anxious to call the job "quits" ~~and I informed you that Mrs. Edison refused to~~ ~~do~~ you or ever allow you to make any ~~more attempts to redeem the pond~~ It was accordingly understood that this entire matter was closed both by you and Mrs. Edison. You further stated that you had lost money on the job and further effort on your part would mean just so much more loss and you were ready to consider the matter closed + "quits".

I informed Mrs. Edison of this understanding with you - namely that you would not go to any further expense to redeem the pond and the job was ended, and considered "quits" by which Mrs. Edison and myself both understood you were glad to be freed from any further work and the account closed and you would write off your loss. —

We certainly trust you understand Mrs. Edison's position and that the pond has never held water and is absolutely unsatisfactory - and ~~We trust that~~ you will consider the matter closed.

With the kindest ~~———~~ personal regards

I remain Yours Sincerely

J. V. M.

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[F5F17AB], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Neill (William) and Sons Inc, January 22nd, 1927

Title
[F5F17AB], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Neill (William) and Sons Inc, January 22nd, 1927

Author
Miller, John Vincent

Recipient
Neill (William) and Sons Inc

Mentioned

- Glenmont
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1927-01-22

Type
Letter

Subject

- Finances (TAE and family)
- Property
- Contracts and other legal concerns

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January 22, 1927.

William Neill & Son,
47 Orange Road,
Montclair, N. J.

RE: Pond at Residence of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison. Your Letter 1/17.

Gentlemen:

We were indeed glad to receive your letter of January 17, and to note that you have prevented, by your decision any further trouble or dispute over the account with Mrs. Thomas A. Edison. We appreciate your action in the matter and accept your condition, and have sent you a check for the $35.00, covering the man-hole cover.

Letter was to accompany this check, but thru a slip up, the check was sent out without the letter.

We are very sorry that the pond did not prove satisfactory in every way and that there was so much trouble over it.

With the very kindest personal regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J. V. Miller.

Ediphoned-C

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[F5F17AC], Telegram from Charles Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 20th, 1927

Title
[F5F17AC], Telegram from Charles Edison to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 20th, 1927

Author
Edison, Charles

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Parker, Dr
- Edison, Marion Estelle
- Edison, Carolyn Hawkins (Mrs Charles)

Date
1927-02-20

Type
Telegram

Subject
TAE health

Folder ID
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Edison, T.A. – Family –

D 1927

Day letter – to mother. – Marion

Sent 4.35 P.M. Sunday Feb 20/27

Carolyn & I visited Marion yesterday at Norwalk Hospital. Dr. Tracy of Norwalk apparently competent but will have Dr Parker check up on situation too & if any complications develops will have Dr Beale or other specialist called in. Nothing to worry about so far – Marian comfortable & getting every attention possible.

Everything else running along beautifully

Love.

Charles.

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[F5F17AD], Letter from Owens and Phillips to A W James, July 14th, 1927

Title
[F5F17AD], Letter from Owens and Phillips to A W James, July 14th, 1927

Author
Owens and Phillips

Recipient
James, A W

Mentioned

- Glenmont
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1927-07-14

Type
Letter

Subject

- Property
- Health and safety

Folder ID
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File
Mfg E -

OWENS & PHILLIPS INC.
INSURANCE
130 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE BEEKMAN 4308
GLENMONT

WDO/ED

July 14th, 1927.

Thos.A.Edison, Inc.,
Orange, N.J.

Attention of Mr.A.W.James.

Gentlemen:-

IN RE:MINA M.EDISON, DWELLING, LLEWELLYN PARK, W.O.

This will acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 12th inst., enclosing memo of July 11th in reference to the question of private hydrants on above assureds property, and in reply to the question raised as to whether or not the discontinuance of the two private hydrants in service will have any effect on the existing insurance rate of this property or the policies in force, we are pleased to state that our answer is "No".

In the first place protective rates are enjoyed only as the result of risks being located under the protection of public water and fire departments and as this risk comes properly within the zone of protection no additional allowance is made for the private auxiliary hydrants.

The only recommendation that our office can make relative to the retention of these 2" hydrants is that they be turned over to the authorities of West Orange as part of the West Orange water system. This would then eliminate the necessity of meter connections entirely. The writer believes however that if they are willing to accept these hydrants they no doubt would desire to make some charge for supervision, as all fire hydrants or public water mains must be subject to constant checking in order to assure of their being in service.

For your own information, at the present time the risk in question is enjoying a rate which was made prior to the adoption of the present rating Laws for the State of New Jersey. Dwellings having a value in excess of $50,000. under the present rules are subject to a specific co-insurance rate and our experience has been that an increase

has resulted rather than a reduction where schedules are applied.

The writer will be in Orange next week to go over this matter thoroughly with you.

Believing you will find the above in order, we remain,

Very truly yours,

W D Lewis

President.